3. (Currently Amended) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein

~~an intermediary piece (11) is arranged between the compression spring (8) and the plunger (3) or piston, with~~ said intermediary piece (11) ~~being~~ is nonrotatably connected to said compression spring.

4. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 3, wherein the intermediary piece (11) comprises a roughened face which is supported by the plunger (3) or piston.

5. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein the compression spring (8) is non-rotatably held on a cover (7) which forms the bottom of the cylinder.

6. (Currently amended) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein a section (15) of the plunger (3) rotatably engages a borehole of a piston (14), which piston (14) including said intermediary piece, comprises at least one screw-thread section or journal.

7. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 6, wherein the cross-section of the journal of the plunger (13), which journal emanates from the cylinder (4), is unround, polygonal or comprises grooves or longitudinal wedges, and passes through a rim or cover of the cylinder (4) with a complementary opening.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 2 without prejudice and amend Claims 1, 3 and 6 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A damping device for movable furniture parts, for example for doors or drawers, comprising a piston or plunger which is slidably guided in a hollow body, e.g. a cylinder, with said piston or plunger being impinged upon by spring force into its pushed-out position,

wherein

the hollow body (4) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (5) of the internal screw thread and/or the piston (14) or plunger (3) comprises at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay of the external screw thread (6);

the stays (5, 6) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other, or cams (31) or journals of the hollow body (30) or of the piston or plunger are supported on a screw-thread section (34) of the other components (33); ~~and~~

the pitch of the stays of the screw thread is greater than the pitch at which self-locking occurs; and

an intermediary piece (11) is arranged between the compression spring and the plunger (3) or piston (14).

Claim 2. Canceled.

8. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein the piston (33) comprises a section of larger diameter which forms a circumferential step of sawtooth-like shape with bevelled spiral-shaped flanks (34), and approximately axis-parallel flanks (36) which are situated between the former, and journals (31) of a cylinder (30) which encompasses the piston (33) are supported on the spiral-shaped flanks (34).

9. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 8, wherein the sawtooth-like step is a flank (34) of a groove (32) made in the piston (33), with the upper flank of said groove in the region of the peak of the step forming pockets with gliding flanks whose base (37) in each instance is approximately axis-parallel beside the peaks (35) in the commencement region of the spiral-shaped flanks (34).

10. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 8, wherein the cylinder (30) is encompassed by an outer cylinder (42).

11. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 8, wherein the piston (30) is connected to the bottom plate of the outer cylinder (42).

12. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 8, wherein the piston (33) is a hollow body, and a compression spring (44) is restrained between the base of this hollow body (33) and the cylinder (30).

13. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein a high-viscosity grease is applied to surfaces of the components of the spiral-shaped screw-thread stays of the damping device which surfaces glide on each other, and/or to the flanks of said spiral-shaped screw-thread stays.

14. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein caps made of elastomeric material are placed onto the impact-absorbing plungers or cylinders.

15. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 14, wherein the caps are rotatably connected to the plungers or cylinders.

16. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 1, wherein said damping device is inserted in the pot (20) of a hinge or is constructed in one piece with said pot (20) of a hinge, such that during the closing movement, the plunger (3) or cylinder comes to rest against a hinge arm or a swinging arm (22) of the hinge.

17. (Previously presented) A damping device for movable furniture parts, for example for doors or drawers, comprising a piston or plunger which is slidably guided in a hollow body, e.g. a cylinder (50), with said piston or plunger being impinged upon by spring force into its pushed-out position,

wherein

the piston (51) comprises an axial borehole and at least one section of a spiral-shaped stay (52) of the internal screw thread and a plunger (55) which is screwed into the piston (51), with said plunger (55) comprising at least one section of a spiral-shaped external stay (58);

the stays (52, 58) of the screw threads are glidingly supported one on top of the other, or cams or journals of the piston or plunger are supported on a thread section of the other component;

the piston (51) or the plunger (55) is guided to be axially displaceable and rotatable, and the other component is guided in the hollow body (50) to be axially displaceable and nonrotatable;

the rotatably guided piston (51) or plunger comprises coupling devices (64) which can be coupled, in the pushed-out position of the rotatable piston or plunger, with countercoupling devices (63) of an element which is rotatable (61) in the hollow body (50) against resistance; and

the pitch of the screw-thread stays exceeds the pitch at which self-locking occurs.

18. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 17, wherein the plunger (55), which can be screwed into the piston (51), comprises at least one radial cam (56) or a spring which is or are guided in a longitudinal groove of the internal wall of the hollow body (50) or a bush (53) which closes off this hollow body.

19. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 17, wherein the element which can be rotated in relation to a decelerating moment of torsion comprises a tubular section (61) which is rotatably held in an annular groove in the bottom region of the hollow body (50).

20. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 19, wherein the tubular section (61) is embedded in the annular groove by a high-viscosity grease.

21. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 19, wherein the coupling devices and countercoupling devices comprise sawtooth-like teeth (63, 64) arranged on the ring-shaped faces of the tubular section and of the tubular piston, which engage each other to form a coupling when the plunger is pushed in.

22. (Previously presented) The damping device according to claim 19, wherein a compression spring (69) is restrained between the face of the journal (60), exposed by the annular groove, at the base of the hollow body (50) and the rear end of the plunger (55).